

Consideration of Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife response regarding citizen petitions for rule change; Administrative Cause Nos. 12-177D, 12-100D, and 13-020D

The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) has received the following citizen petitions requesting changes to the Fish and Wildlife rules:

- 1) Allow the sale of squirrel tails; Administrative Cause No. 12-177D
- 2) Allow additional rifle calibers for deer hunting that are not currently legal, such as the .243, .308, .223, 7.62 x 39, .30-30, .45-70 and 7.62 x 54; Administrative Cause No. 12-100D
- 3) Allow a spring squirrel season that starts when the spring turkey season ends; Administrative Cause No. 13-020D

In accordance with Information Bulletin # 7, "Petitions for Rule Change and for Nonrule Policy Document Change," these petitions were forwarded to the DNR for a response.

The DNR is requesting that the NRC not move forward with these rule changes at this time. The DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife currently has two rule packages in the promulgation process that include a number of changes to hunting and fishing-related rules. These rule packages received preliminary adoption last November and are in the process of obtaining approval from the Office of Management and Budget at this time. The Division of Fish and Wildlife began its biennial rule-making process last summer with an opportunity for public input and preliminary adoption of two rule packages. The Division of Fish and Wildlife plans to begin this process again in 2014, at which time these three petitions would be included with other public input.